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#### VIETNAM

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(See *China*)

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## HONDURAS

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siveness is a major limitation to improved working relations.

### PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE

Initially caught in a conflict not of its own making, Honduras is now very much a part of the continuing crisis in Central America. The country is physically occupied by two foreign armies (United States and contra forces) and sometimes two other armies operate in Honduran territory. The political system, barely able to withstand fractious parties, polarizing personalism and excessive clientelism, must respond to the added demands imposed by extreme exile politics. The country's chief ally, while talking peace, prepares for war and is willing to pay to ensure local conformity.

Hondurans themselves have endured difficult regional conflicts that have spilled onto, if they have not originated on, their territory. However, the country's capacity to absorb the continuing conflict has limits. Institutionalized cynicism, in the form of corruption and venality, have reached alarming levels. The military is deeply involved in profiteering, leading businessmen have willingly defrauded the state, top-level politicians are respected and feared when they use corruption and cooptation, but they are ridiculed and ignored when they choose to operate more openly and honestly. ■

